Boxes locally. The reduction of Customs duty on Set Top Boxes was proposed in order to make the Set Top Box affordable to the consumers. The reduction of the Customs duty on import of Set Top Boxes is valid up to 31st July, 2003. The Bureau of Indian Standards has aleady laid down standards for Set Top Boxes in August 2002. Steps have been taken to ensure the quality of the Set Top Boxes/ MSOs have come up with schemes for providing Set Top Boxes to consumers with a refundable deposit and a nominal daily rent. The interests of the indigenous manufacturers have been safeguarded through the rationalisation of the import duty on components, required for manufacturing the boxes locally and through reduction in excise duty.

Restrictions on Indian Goods

†*13. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minsiter of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of a number of Indian goods is still restricted in various manners in several member countries of the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the names of such countries togetherwith the Indian goods restricted for import in these countries; and

(c) the value of the exports made from India to each of these countries during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) One of the fundamental principles of the multilateral trading system under WTO is that of the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Treatment which envisages non-discrimination among member countries for the purpose of trade. Therefore, discrimination or restrictions specific to India goods by other WTO members is not permitted. However, WTO rules authorize restrictions on import of goods based on tariff as agreed upon and also through other types of restrictions which are permissible. Such permissible restrictions include those based on balance of payment grounds, sanitary and phyto sanitary related restrictions, conformity with

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

agreed/international standards and contingent protection measures like anti-dumping, subsidy and safeguard actions. Procedural requirements could also act as barriers to trade.

Restrictions on import of goods from India exist in several of the WTO member countries. When market access is affected in any significant manner in specific countries, such issues are taken up, particularly if they are also not WTO compatible. Normally such restrictions on imports are addressed through bilateral contacts like inter-governmental commissions, working groups on trade and economic cooperation etc. The WTO also provides for a number of mechanisms for addressing the issue of restriction on imports of goods into the markets by WTO members. These include Trade Policy Review Mechanism, discussions in the Councils, subsidiary bodies, bilateral consultations and dispute settlement. Such issues are also taken up as part of multilateral negotiations.

(b) and (c) It would be difficult to list all the restrictions on imports from India in various WTO member countries or to name all of these countries since restrictions of one kind of or another exist in various Members. Department of Commerce has been compiling non-tariff barriers being faced by India in foreign markets from time to time.

Censor Board for Advertisements and Serials

*14. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for women has recommended setting up of a separate Censor Board for advertisements and serials telecast by different channels on television network; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Chairperson of the National Commission for Women has informed that at the meeting of Chairpersons of State Commissions for Women, organised by the National Commission for Women in March 2003, a suggestion was made for creation of a Censor Board for Advertisements, which should have at least one representative from the Commission.